

U.S Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens
Political Opposition Calls for Demonstrations for Tuesday, January 31st

January 30, 2012

This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Senegal that the political opposition movement known as M23 has called for nationwide demonstrations on Tuesday, January 31st to protest the Constitutional Council's decisions over the weekend regarding the validity of Presidential candidates. The opposition has called for demonstrations to occur throughout the day on Tuesday and to take place not only in Dakar, but also in other major cities in Senegal, such as Thies, Mbour, and Saint Louis. It is not known at this point where demonstrations may occur, but in Dakar, likely locations would be the Place de l'Obelisque, around the University of Cheikh Anta Diop, and possibly the Presidential palace. Given the uncertainty of where demonstrations may occur, U.S. citizens are encouraged to exercise caution during the day on Tuesday. Demonstrations could quickly turn violent, and if demonstrations are widespread, they could challenge the security services' capacity to contain them. Stay tuned to media reports, maintain situational awareness, consider alternate travel routes in case of blockage and avoid demonstrations should you come upon them.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar web site (<http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to consulardakar@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +221 33 829-2100. For After

Hours Emergency, please call Tel: 33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.